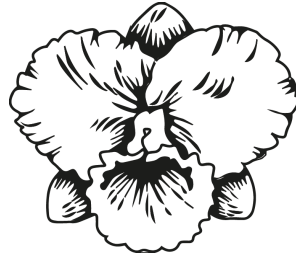


# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
FOUNDED 1946. A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL.

VOLUME 59 No 5



MAY 2019

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 24th May, commencing at 7:30 pm.

**PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett**

**PRESIDENT**  
Courtney Rogasch  
Ph. 0407 049 717

**SECRETARY**  
Murray Baker  
Ph. 9310 2800

**TREASURER**  
Kirsty Bayliss  
Ph. 0413 599 998

**REGISTRAR**  
Harry Ashton  
Ph. 0412 403 696

**BULLETIN EDITOR**  
Murray Baker

**CORRESPONDENCE &  
GENERAL ENQUIRIES**  
Murray Baker  
58 Gladstone Rd  
Leeming 6149  
Ph. 9310 2800  
[murray.baker@iinet.net.au](mailto:murray.baker@iinet.net.au)

<http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/orchidsWA/>

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:**

SPOTLIGHT ON A MEMBER  
PETER KISELL  
(WITH COURTNEY ROGASCH)

**JUNE MEETING DATES:**

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 7th  
General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 28th

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**We acknowledge assistance from Lotterywest for the printing of this Bulletin**

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**Birthdays**

May: 7th Dorothy Walton, 9th Ellen Dixon, 10th Colleen Cortenbach  
June: 2nd Tom Seaman, 10th Val Dobrowolski, 17th Maggie Longmore

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery & may you soon be well.

(For privacy reasons, birthday announcements will not appear in the Bulletin unless requested. Because the Editor is a bit slow, however, some announcements might have been requested but still don't appear. If you would like to see your birthday mentioned in the Bulletin, please advise/remind the Editor.)

**New Members**

Welcome to Shantelle Papas (Ferndale), Yvonne King (Como) and Kristyn O'Brien (West Shelley). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

***Sarcochilus* Kulnura Dragonfly for sale at May General Meeting**

*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Dragonfly is a hybrid bred by Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids. According to the nursery's website, this *Sarcochilus* is "arguably the best cross we have flowered to date." There will be flowering size plants available for \$12 each (cost price) at the May General Meeting, so bring your money with you.

**OSWA Library**

Our library has a collection of fine books on a range of orchid topics, catering to both novice growers and experts. Kaye has retired from her role looking after our books, and Margaret Rathbone is our new librarian. Why not visit Margaret and the next general meeting and borrow a book or two?

**Empty Neutrog Packaging required.**

Courtney would greatly appreciate donations of empty Neutrog fertiliser containers, especially the small containers for Strike Back and Seamungus pellets, for a display on sales table. This would help us promote Neutrog products when we receive enquiries about orchid fertilisers at shows etc.

**Restoration of an Orchid collection 50 – 75 plants.**

A member of the public in the Lesmurdie area needs assistance to clean up her plants. She is able to pay for some assistance. If interested, please contact Courtney.

**Christmas in July**

This event will be held on Saturday 6 July from 11:30 am, at the home of Trevor and Barbara Burnett, 33 Salisbury Road, Beechboro. There will be a raffle, but no need to bring any donations for the raffle, Trevor's got that covered. Just bring \$5 per person (donation to OSWA) and a plate of vegetables or sweets to share. Come prepared to have some fun. Feel free to wear your Christmas gear. Bring a chair, and BYO drinks.

**NAOGAA**

After a broad sweep of the southern suburbs, it is now reported that the NAOGAA has been polling in the vicinity of Leeming. Watch this space, more news as it comes to hand.

**Orchid Paraphernalia for Sale**

Jasmine Hornby (in Redcliffe) has a collection of orchid pots, books, and other orchid related stuff for sale. If interested, contact Jasmine on 0434 210 170 or [jasminejayned@gmail.com](mailto:jasminejayned@gmail.com).

***Cymbidium* Narela 'Jennifer Gail'**

In the April bulletin I was incorrect about the spelling and hybridizer of *Cymbidium* Narela 'Jennifer Gail'. This orchid was bred and registered by Wondabah Orchid Nursery in NSW. Thank you to Ray Taylor for providing the correct information. Tom and Val Seaman and Meg Donald kindly brought in specimens of this orchid, and our guest Kym gratefully received an orchid that had special meaning for her.

**Hygienic Practices to help keep your orchids free of diseases.**

Ken Jones has written an informative article about plant hygiene. It includes illustrations of lots of plant problems, discussion of treatments and recommendations for practices to help avoid pests and diseases in your orchid collection. See: [http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/Hygienic\\_Practice.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/Hygienic_Practice.htm) Thank you to Ray Taylor for drawing this article to our attention.

**Notes from Kevin Butler's talk about Cloning at the April General Meeting.**

Cloning is when a piece of tissue from a plant (the mother plant) is reproduced in a laboratory to make new plants. Usually the new plants ("clones") look just like the mother plant. Occasionally, some random but beneficial mutation during the cloning process leads to a new plant that is better than the mother plant (a "superclone"). Sometimes inferior plants can arise due to random but detrimental mutations when too many plants are grown from the same tissue. Sometimes the cloning process does not work perfectly, for example a "feathered" cymbidium might arise from genetic mutation during cloning, but with subsequent breeding these types usually revert back to the normal form without the genetic mutation.

Kevin showed a cymbidium plant with leaves at the base of the pseudobulb stripped away. When the leaves were removed, "eyes" in the bulb were revealed. These eyes would normally grow into new bulbs, but they can be used for cloning. The plant tissue in the eyes is known as meristematic tissue, and clones that are grown from this tissue are known as mericlones.

Before using the tissue, the plant needs to be carefully scrubbed clean and sterilised in bleach, and then taken into a laminar flow cabinet. (A laminar flow cabinet is basically a box designed to provide sterile a working area, to avoid fungal and bacterial contamination of materials for cloning.) In the laminar flow cabinet, the meristematic tissue is placed into agar, usually liquid agar, in a suitable flask. If the flask is left to stand, the tissue will eventually develop roots and leaves and turn into a new plant. If the flask is instead gently agitated for weeks or months, to keep the tissue tumbling in the liquid agar, the tissue cells does not differentiate into leaves and roots. Instead, the tissue develops into a pimply-looking, roughly spheroidal green mass of tissue called a protocorm. The protocorm can be cut into 4 pieces, and these pieces can be further cultivated in gently-agitated agar to make 4 protocorms, which can each be cut into four pieces and further cultivated to make 16 protocorms, and so on and so on to make 64, 256, 1024 protocorms. At any stage, if the agitation stops, the protocorms develop into new plants.

Normally it is best to produce only 200-300 clones per piece of meristem tissue. Some labs get thousands. The more divisions of protocorms that are made, the further you go from the original plant, and the more the chance there is that mutations can occur to make the clones different from the parent.

It typically takes about 18 months from eye (meristem tissue) to plants.

A protocorm grown from seed looks similar to a protocorm grown from meristem tissue. Strictly speaking, seeds produce protocorms, and meristem tissue produces "protocorm like bodies", but it is common to simply call them all protocorms.

Normally plants and animals have two sets of chromosomes (one set from each parent) and are designated as diploid, or 2N. If meristematic tissue is treated with the chemicals colchicine or oryzalin, plants with four sets of chromosomes can develop. These plants are designated as tetraploid, or 4N. Compared to 2N plants, 4N plants usually have thicker, more robust leaves and bigger, rounder, "meatier" flowers that are strongly favoured by judges. The trade-off is that 4N plants typically have fewer flowers than 2N plants, and 4N plants grow more slowly. Species found in nature are typically 2N plants.

Mericloneing is quite labour-intensive compared to growing orchids from seeds, and Kevin doesn't do it much anymore. Instead, he sends his cloning work to a lab in Adelaide.

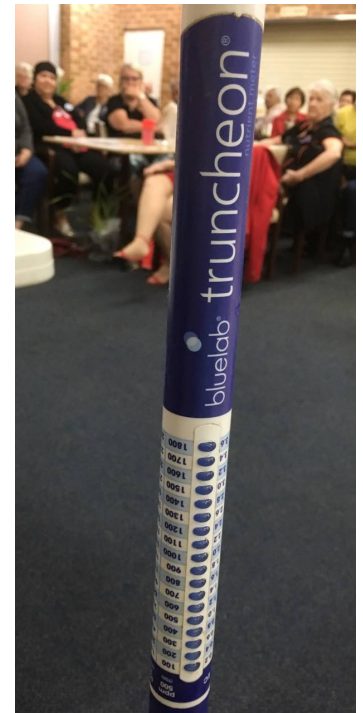
**Show and Tell at the April General Meeting.**

- **Margaret Rathbone: bud drop.** Margaret brought in a lovely cymbidium that had suffered from bud drop. Ray Taylor noted bud drop may be caused by a deficiency of magnesium, which can be treated or avoided by application of a solution of Epsom salts. Bud drop can also occur if plants dry out, so don't let them dry out, especially during hot weather!

- **Ray Taylor: water testing.** Ray demonstrated testing of rainwater and tap water for salt content. Rainwater had very low salt content (it did not give a reading), while tap water had 200-300 ppm salts, but can be up to 500 ppm. Bore water can be variable, from 100 to 1100 ppm. With fertiliser added to tap water, the salt content can go to 1000 or 1100 ppm, which can result in burning of orchid roots. Ray tries to fertilise at 500 ppm or lower, but it is OK to go to 700 ppm if fertiliser is applied only every week or so. Some growers fertilise weakly every day and give a big flush with plain water once a week to wash the salts out of the pots. Growers need to take care when measuring out fertiliser. Fertiliser gets denser as it ages (the fine particles clump together into dense masses), so measuring fertiliser by volume using a spoon can be unreliable. Also spoon sizes variable, so just measuring a spoonful into a 9 litre sprayer will give different results depending on your spoon. If fertiliser solutions are tested for salt content before use, excessive salt levels can be remedied by adding more water. Ray offered to test members' water samples at the next meeting.

Ray did the testing with a Bluelab Truncheon Nutrient Meter. It is simple to operate — just dip it into the solution and it uses a row of lights to show the result. He bought it from a place in Neerabup for about \$160.

The device can also be bought at hydroponics shops such as The Growroom on Albany Highway in Cannington, or online. Cheaper devices can be bought online for as little as \$50, but can be unreliable, and not worth the risk of you incorrectly analyzing your water and then harming your plants with overly-salty solutions.



### Entering plants in shows

Entering plants in shows is not difficult, but there are some rules to follow if chaos is to be avoided.

- You must have owned a plant for 6 months before you can enter it in a show. If you have a plant that you have had for less than 6 months, still bring it along, but label it as "Display Only". The plant will not be judged, but will still go into the display, where it can be appreciated by members of the public.
- Pick the correct entry cards: novice growers use yellow cards, open growers use green cards.
- Fill out the entry cards (front and back) and the summary sheet, and make sure that the details on the cards and the sheet match.
- Consult the show schedule to work out which class your plant belongs in, and write that class on the entry card.
- Don't worry if you are unsure of what class a plant should go into. Take your plant to the "Query Table" to get advice from the judges.
- If your plant is a species, attach a yellow sticker to the entry card.
- If your plant is a seedling, attach a red sticker to the entry card.
- Attach the entry card to the plant (paperclip) and put the plant near the appropriate class letter sign on the judging benches.
- Give your summary sheet to the show marshalls (Rosemary or Merrill).
- Go and do some shopping, have a coffee, or just have a chat until the judging is complete.

### CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (MAY/JUNE 2019) based on notes from Roy Brown

During May some of the early flowering Cymbidiums will be in flower. Others will have flower buds showing through the protective sheaths on the stem. Once they reach the stage where flower buds are visible, it's time to move the plants out of the shade house and into the flowering house, where more protection can be given them. Heavy rain or hail can chip the soft buds and leave a permanent mark. Also strong winds can cause the leaves to rub on the flower and this too will cause a blemish. Cymbidiums like to grow in a position where there is plenty of free air movement, so don't completely enclose the flowering house like a glass house. This could be the reason for bud drop. Give them overhead protection from the heavy rain and also close off the sides that face the strongest winds. Don't

overcrowd your plants, if possible give them plenty of room between each pot. By the end of May we can expect cold, wet wintery weather. Watering will depend on the weather but don't let the pots become dry, particularly those in spike and those under cover. Keep the shade house and flowering house well baited with Baysol pellets for slugs and snails, particularly now that flower buds are showing.

### **CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (MAY/JUNE 2019) based on notes from Henry Eaton**

Autumn weather has at last been established with cool nights and warm days. This has meant that plants that flower in the autumn have begun to do so with plenty of blooms. As always, culture of your plants will be dependent on the prevailing weather. Because of the cold there will be a slowing of activity in the plant, so watering needs will lessen and fertilization can be reduced to once a month or so. This is not a good time for repotting unless the mix in the pot has deteriorated badly, or new roots are being formed over the edge of the pot. In the latter instance, an alternative is to place the whole plant in a larger pot without disturbing the mix, and fill the remaining space with moist, fresh mix. Repotting can then be completed in the spring. The other method is to place a pot full of mix beneath the roots spilling over so they can establish themselves and not be air pruned, as would otherwise occur. As the intensity of the sun now declines, all shading can be removed and the plants will benefit from the increased light and warmth. To protect the flowers from spotting with Botrytis, try and maintain a good flow of air around the plants by hanging them up or having a fan blowing gently over them. The flowers also need protection from snails and slugs by placing baits in the pots and near the flower sheath. Also keep water off the flowers by hand watering into the pot and growing the flowering plants where they are out of reach of the rain. After flowering, plants can be grown in an area where they can experience a rest period during which they receive little or no water, until they show signs of activity again with the appearance of new roots or a swelling of the bud at the base of the pseudo bulb.

### **PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (MAY/JUNE 2019) by Trevor Burnett**

The growing conditions this month are similar to last month, and as the conditions cool, reduced watering will be necessary. I personally reduce my watering further to once every 10 days, but am always mindful that we could still get some of those unexpected hot days, when watering may have to be adjusted. We would need to get 3-4 hot days in a row before I would adjust my watering programme. We should be seeing a good proportion of our plants now producing spikes. The early flowering types will be well advanced and should be staked to prevent twisting and breakage, as the spikes will be soft and not fully set to support the flower. The plant's growth will have started to slow considerably on the flowering plants, as all the effort is now being channelled into supporting the flowers. Fertiliser programmes need to be adjusted to a fertilizer with less nitrogen and more phosphorus and potassium, to improve the strength and quality of the flowers. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require a fertilizer at one quarter or half strength, on a fortnightly or monthly basis, to keep the growth moving forward. With more buds appearing weekly, continue staking plants using meat skewers, wire stakes or thin bamboo canes. If you decide to use wire, ensure the top is turned over to help protect your eyes from getting poked when working with the plants. If you are moving plants to a different area to flower, ensure they are returned to the same orientation to the light source as in the original location. Turning plants can cause flower stems to become twisted, spoiling the effect if you wish to enter them in the various shows. My tip for the month is: if you are growing the plants without heat during the winter (as I do), keep the plants drier than usual, as wet, cold conditions are often fatal to roots.

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#### **The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**

#### **Minutes of the General Meeting, Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Friday 26 April 2019**

**Welcome:** 7:35 pm

**Attendance, apologies and Visitors:** as per register.

**Birthdays:** 7<sup>th</sup> Rosemary McGrath, 10<sup>th</sup> Bernadette Campbell, 12<sup>th</sup> Karen Carless, 17<sup>th</sup> Mike Burgess, 24<sup>th</sup> Rod Pohl, 29<sup>th</sup> Ian Duncan

**Meeting Item: Kevin Butler - Mericlones.**

**Minutes:** Moved J Bateman, seconded L Brooks, that the Minutes of the April General Meeting (in bulletin) be accepted. Carried.

**Business arising:**

- **Christmas in July lunch** at the Burnett residence will be on Saturday 6 July.

- **Floraplant** visit rescheduled to Saturday 10 August

Moved J Bateman, seconded L Brooks, that the business arising has been dealt with. Carried.

#### Correspondence:

- From Kym Murphy, granddaughter of Les and Faye Gale, requesting pink Cymbidium Narela 'Jennifer Gail'.
- OWA, notice of and items for General Meeting (including new rules)
- OJPWA, invoice for judging fees
- From Libby Hocking, ISODW bus tour full.
- Perth Garden Festival
- Email exchange with Neutrog to arrange for Brian Klepzig presentation at 23 August GM
- Tony Watkinson, re WOC info meeting on Sunday 7 April
- Letter from Australian Orchid Foundation (info about the foundation, publications, competitions)
- OrchidsWA (Lina) materials for 6 April general meeting.
- Call from Isla (could not make out last name) from CWA requesting visiting speaker.
- Email exchange with copyworld re photocopying costs
- Responses to general email and Facebook enquiries from members of the public.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

**Confirmation:** Moved M Rathbone seconded M Brechin that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried.

**Financial Statement:** Prepared and presented by Kirsty Bayliss.

**Confirmation:** Moved K Bayliss seconded R Pohl that the Financial Statement be endorsed. Carried.

**New Members:** Dianne Leggo and Angeline Ngooi.

#### Reports:

- **Perth Garden Festival.** C Rogasch reported that the event was a great success, raised our public profile, and resulted in many good interactions with the public. Sometimes the tent was too crowded! This is an event that is doing really well, with over 32,000 attendees this year, and we had a steady stream of visitors. The team effort by helpers at our stand was excellent. Thanks to Brad and Jenny for transport, Ann Lam and Trevor and Barbara Burnett for munchies. Raffle raised over \$300.
- **Tropical Colours nursery visit** L Brooks noted that the nursery will likely be selling intermediate type cymbidiums instead of phalananthe-type dendrobiums within 2 years, and new vandaceous offerings are likely.

#### General Business:

- Tom and Val Seaman donated a plant of Cymbidium Narela 'Jennifer Gail' to visitor Kym, for whom the plant had sentimental value. Meg Donald also kindly brought in a plant.
- **Shed Cleanup Day:** Saturday 27 April. Attendees can look forward to Lina's magnificent scones.
- **Library:** Courtney reminded members that the library is open and functioning. Kaye advised that Margaret Rathbone has agreed to take over running of the library.
- **Empty Neutrog Packaging required.** Courtney would greatly appreciate donations of empty Neutrog fertiliser containers especially the small containers for Strike Back and Seamungus pellets, for a display on sales table.
- **Restoration of an Orchid collection 50 – 75 plants.** A member of the public in the Lesmurdie area needs assistance to clean up her plants. She can pay. Interested members asked to contact Courtney.
- **Riverton Show:** Arrangements for the show were discussed. Rosemary outlined the procedure for entering plants in shows. Members were asked to please wear name badges, especially when coming to pack up, so we can recognise members and watch out for orchid thieves. Courtney asked members to put their names in the roster, not just show up at the event, so we can ensure that we can cover all shifts and also have space for the volunteers behind the display table. Usually 3-4 people are needed at any given time. Difficult shifts are first thing in the morning when people are bringing in sales plants—there is a process to follow to get the plants onto the sales table in an organised fashion, and while that is happening we need extra helpers to deal with customers. We also, need a spread of experienced and less experienced people at any given time.
- **Plant sales:** Members were asked to fill out the paperwork carefully! Make sure the master sheet matches tickets on plants and have the paperwork signed off by the sales table person before you leave your plants at the sales table. The sales table volunteers and OSWA cannot be held responsible for apparently missing plants or mis-priced plants if the paperwork is not correct and signed off before the plants are put on the sales table. Watch out for scumbags in the carpark or in the shopping centre trying to buy your plants before they get to the sales table. It's not in anyone's interest for that to happen.
- **Soft cane Dendrobiums:** Courtney advised members not to water soft cane dendrobiums between Mothers Day and Fathers Day, to promote formation of flowers rather than keikis.
- **Show and Tell:** Margaret Rathbone (bud drop) and Ray Taylor (water testing).

**Raffle:** T Burnett, B Saul, T Seaman, H Stretch, L Brooks, L Pacca, J Bateman, R McIntosh, P Kissell, J Bayliss (kindly called 'draw again'), I Brechin, L Chelva, Kristyn (visitor), N Kulchytska, P Kissell and M Brechin again (both kindly called 'draw again'), R McGrath, Y Tran, M Donald. A big thank you to Tom and Val Seaman for donating many soft cane Dendrobium keikis, and Phil and Marjorie Howden for donating a copy of Australian Orchid Review magazine.

**Popular Vote:** **Open:** *Miltonia X bluntii*, owner Courtney Rogasch (Courtney kindly declined his prize.)

**Novice:** *Oncidium* Aka Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate', owner Harry Ashton

**Badge Prize:** E Chelva

**Meeting closed at:** 9:45 pm

### MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (April 2019)

(Note: Plants must have been owned by the grower for at least 6 months prior to entry in Monthly Meetings and Shows)

#### OPEN

1B	(1)	1	Merril Brechin	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Hetherington Horace
1D	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Guaritonia</i> Why Not
1F	(3)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Netrasiri Starbright
		2	Merril Brechin	<i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> semi alba x <i>Laeliocattleya</i> Frenchy's Cheek-La
		3	Peter Kissell	<i>Cattleya bowringiana</i> x <i>Schomburgkia splendida</i>
3A	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum barbatum</i>
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum barbatum</i>
3C	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Imperial Jade x Gold Dollar 'Teleray'
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Citron x Hsinying Emma
4B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Burrana Stripe
5A	(1)	1	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i>
6B	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Oncidium</i> Sweet Sugar
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Oncidium</i> Sweet Sugar 'Super'
6D	(3)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Wilhelmara</i> Pinot Princess 'Nite Naulage'
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Miltonia</i> x <i>bluntii</i>
		3	Ray Taylor	<i>Bratonia</i> Aztec 'Toni'
10B	(3)	1	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Dendrochilum arachnites</i>
		2	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Dendrochilum cobbianum</i>
		3	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Restripia trichoglossa</i>
11B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Galeopetalum</i> (Giant x Arthur Elle) 'Old Port'

#### NOVICE

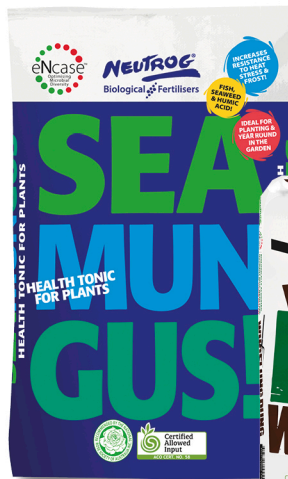
15A	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
		2	Lynn Brooks	<i>Encyclia cochleata</i> 'Andrew Young' x 'Tinonee'
15B	(1)	3	Dawn Fathers	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
15C	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Little Mermaid 'Janet'
15F	(3)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Yellow Bird
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Brabantiae 'Bandeirantes'
		3	Harry Ashton	<i>Rhyncovola</i> David Sander
18D	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
18F	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Dendrobium</i> (Star of Gold x <i>fleckeri</i> ) x <i>Dendroboium bigibbum</i>
20A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Zelenkoa onusta</i>
20D	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Oncidium</i> Aka Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate'
		2	Lynn Brooks	<i>Miltassia</i> Aztec 'Toni'
25B	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Debbie De Mellow

POPULAR VOTE

<b>OPEN</b>	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Miltonia x bluntii</i>
<b>NOVICE</b>	Harry Ashton	<i>Oncidium</i> Aka Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate'
<b>SCHOKMAN TROPHY</b> (Laeliinae)	Ray Taylor	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Netrasiri Starbright (72 points)

# Feed & protect **Now** for a headstart in... **Spring!**

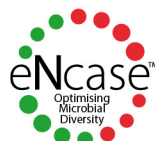
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